19th July 1952] [Sri N. Gopala Menon]

children under 14 years of age in some way or other, I am afraid it may not be possible for us to complete it within the period specified in the Constitution. Sir, it is said that financial considerations stand in the way of the Government starting more schools and providing them with buildings, equipment, etc. Education must be placed in the forefront of our national reconstruction and we must be able to provide the largest amount possible for the educational progress of the country, for it is one of the main duties of the Government to eradicate illiteracy from this country. Sir, the wealth of a country is not so much its national resources, its great rivers, fertile lands, huge mountains and mines underneath, but it is its people that constitute the wealth of the nation. What is 12–30 p.m.
the use of big rivers and fertile soil if there is not the human endeavour which can harness the rivers to productive use? Therefore, the main consideration is the prosperity and well-being of the people that constitute the nation. The one thing that we can do for the well-being of the nation is to give education to the people. There is very little difference between an animal and a man, if we take away from the man all the education and cleverness that he possesses. Therefore, if we are to be a great nation, as we claim to be, and if we are to be in the vanguard of national progress, we must see that all our children who constitute the future generations are educated properly. For this purpose, even if there is financial stringency we have to shape our finances in such a way that it will be possible for us to provide education for all our children. We are, I am afraid, aping too much the western methods. If we want to open a school in a village, we are asking the Public Works Department to tell us what a school building would cost and the enormous sum that is estimated by them makes us shiver . . ."

IV.—PRESENCE OF SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE IN THE HOUSE.

* SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" On a point of order, Sir. I would like to know whether the Press Gallery can be used by Sergeants and others who are not members of the Press and whether they can sit down and take notes without the permission of either the House or the Speaker. I would like to know from the Chair whether such a thing is not happening today in this House. If it is happening, I would like to know what action the Chair proposes to take and I also ask for a guarantee that such a thing will not be allowed in future."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I shall guarantee that such things do not happen hereafter."

* SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" I would like to know, Sir, whether such a thing is not happening today and whether the Hon. Deputy Speaker would like to find out now whether all the people in the Press Gallery are the accredited representatives of the Press. Sir, I would like you to note that we had already raised this question previously, but today we have definitely pointed out to you the very person who has been using this Assembly for a purpose for which it is not intended. I would have liked the

[Sri T. Nagi Reddi] [19th July 1952

Hon. Chief Minister to be here and hear my protest. Last time the Hon. Chief Minister said that such things would not be allowed. I would have liked him to be here and answer me that such things would not happen in future. Sir, other persons not belonging to the Press, taking down notes in this House is against the rules and is against the very purpose of this Assembly. I would like to have a guarantee from the Chair that this man, whoever he may be, will be given proper punishment if he is not an accredited representative of the Press so that the Members, this House and the Press Gallery will be safe from such people hereafter. I hope the Hon. Deputy Speaker will take note of this and give us a clear guarantee that such things will not be allowed to happen in future."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I shall guarantee that necessary steps will be taken and no one will be allowed in the Press Gallery in future other than the Members belonging to the Press."

* THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in connexion with the point of order that has been raised just now, I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. Deputy Speaker that it was pointed out the other day that a Shorthand Reporter from the Police Department was drafted for the specific purpose of taking down Malayalam speeches in this House. He is not here for any other purpose."

* SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" If any Shorthand Reporters are drafted for the work of the Assembly, there are already seats allowed for them on either side of the Secretary. Official Reporters are to take their seats in the places allotted for them and not in any place they like. When there are seats provided for the Official Reporters on either side of the Secretary, I do not see any reason why one should sit in the Press Gallery and take down notes especially when the speech is not in Malayalam or Telugu. I have been seeing him writing. Therefore, Sir, there is no place for the C.I.D. Reporters of the Special Branch Police to come here and take down notes as to who is talking and to whom. It is against democratic principles and against the very purpose of this House. And the reply of the Hon. Minister for Education to my point of order is unworthy of a Minister especially in a democratic country as ours."

* THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, I just drew the attention of the Hon. Deputy Speaker to a fact that occurred the other day. As regards the presence of the C.I.D. people here, the Hon. Chief Minister made a categorical statement the other day. I take objection to the statement of the hon. Member that what I have said is unworthy of a Minister. I think it is not proper for him to say so and I wish to bring this to your notice, Sir."

* SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" I have brought a particular instance to the notice of the Hon. Deputy Speaker and of the House and asked for a guarantee that such things will not be

allowed in future. On the other hand, the Hon. Minister tells us what the Hon. Chief Minister said on a different occasion and which has nothing to do with this. I am really sorry that the Hon. Minister feels that way. I am also sorry that I did not get the guarantee I asked for. Even if he does not point out such things, we are vigilant enough to see that democracy functions and functions properly.''

* THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, it is for the Chair to maintain and protect the privileges of this House. I did not presume to give any assurance and I just gave a point of fact. It is for the Chair to investigate such things and look after the interests of the Members of the House. Therefore the hon. Member could not expect me to give that assurance. It is for the Chair to make a remark whether my reply is worthy or otherwise.''

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I shall guarantee that no one will be permitted hereafter to enter the Press Gallery except the accredited representatives of the Press.''

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" What about the man who had already entered and just now gone, Sir? ''

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I said that such a thing would not be allowed to happen in future. There is no need to have further discussion on this point. The hon. Member Mr. Gopala Menon will now continue his speech.''

III.—VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1952-53—*cont.*

(1) DEMAND XV—EDUCATION—*cont.*

* SRI N. GOPALA MENON—*cont.* :—" I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the interruption. I was stating that the progress of education in the country is unsatisfactory. Take the case of Madras City. During the last thirty years, free compulsory education is being implemented under the Elementary Education Act among all children of school-going age. With the strenuous work put in by the Corporation of Madras and other public associations during the last thirty years, we have been able to touch only the fringe of the problem. Between 15 and 16 thousand children of school-going age are without education. I shall not vouch for the accuracy of the statistics; but these figures are fairly correct. If that is the state of affairs in the City of Madras, hon. Members can well imagine what will be the state in the villages. Hon. Members should be aware that school-going children are denied facilities for education in the villages. Discontent is spreading throughout the country on account of this. We are not doing the duties expected of us because we neglect to provide for the studies of these school-going children. It is not necessary that these children should be provided with big masonry buildings wherein their schools could be run, nor is it necessary

12-40 p.m.